

13 January 2026

PCSS workforce and 2025 recruitment: religious background (Protestant / Catholic / Other)

Please provide the following information for the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust’s PCSS workforce.

Definitions/assumptions:

By PCSS I mean the staff employed within the Trust’s PCSS function/service. If you use a different official name for that team, please state the exact service name and make clear which staff are included.

By “most recent recruitment round in 2025” I mean the most recent formal recruitment exercise for PCSS that concluded in 2025. Please state the date range you treat as that recruitment round (start and end dates) and the total number of successful applicants.

Requested information:

- 1. For the total PCSS workforce (state the date the headcount relates to):**
 - a. Number of staff recorded as Protestant.**
 - b. Number of staff recorded as Catholic.**
 - c. Number of staff recorded as Other.**
 - d. The percentage each of the above represents of the total PCSS workforce.**

Response to Section 1a-d:

Community Background	Count	Percentage
Protestant	469	21%
Catholic	1103	48%
Neither/Not Known	713	31%

e. If you hold additional categories (for example “No religion”, “Not stated”, “Other faiths”), please provide counts and percentages for those categories and indicate how they map (if at all) to “Other”.

Response:

The Neither/Not known category is broken down as follows:

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Community Background	Count	Percentage
Neither	170	24%
Not Known	543	76%

2. For the most recent recruitment round in 2025 (please state the recruitment round date range and total number of successful applicants):

- a. Number of successful applicants recorded as Protestant.**
- b. Number of successful applicants recorded as Catholic.**
- c. Number of successful applicants recorded as Other.**

Please note that due to system and process restrictions the Trust is unable to identify the most recent recruitment round in 2025. The figures provided are for all new starts to PCSS during 2025. We hope this will be satisfactory.

Response to Section 2a-c:

To maintain confidentiality the Trust is unable to release the total number of successful applicants or the breakdown of community backgrounds.

d. The percentage each of the above represents of the total successful applicants in that round.

Response:

Community Background	Percentage
Protestant	0%
Catholic	2%
Neither/Not Known	98%

e. As above, if you use different internal categories, please supply those counts/percentages and explain any mapping to the three categories requested.

Response:

Community Background	Percentage
Neither	0%
Not Known	100%